

2020

Marital satisfaction as predicted by the early relationship between the daughter and her father

Daoud Al-Sheikh Ali

Al-Ahliyya Amman University, sumaiahsulimansalshawabkeh@yahoo.com

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Recommended Citation

Ali, Daoud Al-Sheikh (2020) "Marital satisfaction as predicted by the early relationship between the daughter and her father," *Al-Balqa Journal for Research and Studies* **البلقاء للبحوث والدراسات**: Vol. 15 : Iss. 1 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.aaru.edu.jo/albalqa/vol15/iss1/5>

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المخلص:

هدفت الدراسة الحالية إلى التحقق من الرضا الزوجي كما تتنبأ به العلاقة المبكرة بين الابنة وأبيها وبعض المتغيرات الديموغرافية لدى عينة أردنية مكونة من (247) زوجا وزوجة. أظهرت النتائج بأن العلاقة الجسدية مع الأب وإدراكات تأثير الأب كان لها أثر إيجابي على الرضا الزوجي للزوجة. فيما أظهرت النتائج بأن دعم الأم لعلاقة الابنة بأبيها والعلاقة الجسدية للابنة مع أبيها وإدراكات تأثير الأب كان لها تأثيرها الإيجابي على الرضا الزوجي عند الزوج، أما فيما يتعلق بالمتغيرات الديموغرافية، أشارت النتائج أن الرضا الزوجي يرتفع عند كلا الزوجين في حالة عمل المرأة وكون الزواج هو الأول. فيما ينخفض الرضا الزوجي عند كلا الزوجين في حالة وجود اضطرابات نفسية أو تعاطي الكحوليات في الأسرة. كما أظهرت النتائج أن الرضا الزوجي يصبح أفضل عند الزوجة فقط عندما يكون زواجها غير تقليدي وفي حالة عدم وجود أطفال لديها، فيما يرتفع الرضا الزوجي عند الزوج فقط عندما تكون الزوجة بمستوى تعليمي أفضل. وقد نوقشت نتائج الدراسة في إطار ثقافي واجتماعي.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الرضا الزوجي، العلاقة المبكرة بين الابنة وأبيها.

Introduction:

Emerging research confirms the importance of father-child interaction and the role nurturing fathers may play in the lives of their children (Pruett, 1987; Seconda , 1992; Biller & Kimpton, 1997; Floyd & Morman, 2000; Morman & Floyd, 2002). In light of these research findings, certain characteristics of the father-child relationship are associated with a positive impact on children's subsequent development. Consequently, a large body of research presently exists in which various dimensions of father-child relationship and demographic factors have been used to predict marital satisfaction. According to Bradbury, Fincham, and Beach (2000), the rationale for studying marital satisfaction stems from its centrality in individual and family well-being, from the benefits it renders to society when strong marriages are formed and maintained, and from the need to develop empirically- supported interventions that prevent or alleviate marital distress and divorce. Thus, marital satisfaction and its relation with different aspects of human life remains an important subject of research among marriage and family therapists

Parenting practices represent one of the major factors related to child outcome and personality development (Biller & Weiss, 1970; Lamb & Oppenheim, 1989; Seconda , 1992; Biller & Kimpton, 1997; Maccoby, 2000; Lamb & Tamis-Lemonda, 2004; Videon, 2005). In this context, father involvement is linked to positive academic (Biller & Kimpton, 1997; Harris, Furstenburg & Marmer, 1998; Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004; Snarey, 1993; Wentzel, 1994; Yeung, Duncan, & Hill, 2000), psychosocial adjustment (Biller & Kimpton, 1997; Amato, 1998; Lamb & Lewis, 2004; Al- sheikh Ali, 2011), and decreased risky behavior outcomes for daughters (Bowling & Werner-Wilson, 2000; Ellis et al., 2003; Cooper, 2009). Involved fathers influence the social functioning and relationships of their children by facilitating the development of increased prosocial behavior, increased social acceptance (Snarey, 1993), self-esteem (Biller & Kimpton, 1997; Mori, 1999; Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004; Cooper, 2009), and decreased delinquency (Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004).

Additionally, evidence from quantitative and qualitative studies of females indicate that aspects of the daughter-father relationship can have implications for daughters' romantic and sexual relationships, with positive paternal involvement being linked to lower risky sexual behavior. It was also found that men reporting higher levels of father closeness engage in significantly fewer non-marital sexual behaviors and have significantly higher levels of marital and family satisfaction than men reporting lower levels of father closeness (Hosley, R., Canfield, K., O'Donnell, S. L. & Roid, G., 2008).

Absent fathers leave children vulnerable to sexual abuse while father closeness (Lamb, 1997; Lamb & Lewis, 2004) and communication of affection are consistently related to positive relationships. Those who report receiving affection from their fathers rate their relationship with their fathers as close and satisfying (Coiro & Emery, 1998; Floyd & Morman, 2005). Research revealed that involved fathers are perceived by their children as warm, nurturing (Biller & Kimpton, 1997) and relationally close (Flouri & Buchanan, 2002). In a study aimed at exploring fathers' impact within the family unit; specifically the role they may have played in shaping familial transactions that affect a daughter's self-appraisal and style of life (Perkins, 2001), results showed that fathers' absence is considered one of many distinct father-daughter relationships. Furthermore, results showed a significant difference in the women's self-perceptions by their identified father-daughter relationships.

In the context of studies related to demographic variables and marital satisfaction, it was found that, overall, the absence of children has a significant positive effect on marital happiness (White and Edwards, 1990; Belsky & Kelly, 1994; Cox, Paley, Burchinal & Payne, 1999; Shapiro, Gottman & Carrere, 2000). However, as to the number of years of marriage (marital stability) and absence of children and its relation to marital satisfaction, there seems to be inconsistent findings. The finding of Cherlin, (1979), Janssen, Poortman, De Graaf, and Kalmijn (1998); and Kalmijn (1999) was that highly educated women had higher rate of unstable marriages. Studies also indicated that marital quality (Houseknecht & Macke, 1981; Simpson & England, 1982), self-esteem and self-efficacy (Kessler and McRae (1982) and decreased levels of psychosomatic symptoms and stress-related medical conditions (Breik & Daoud, 2007) were significantly associated with wives who were employed than among housewives.

Rogers and Amato (1997) reported that the level of satisfaction in intact (first) marriages has declined since mid-1970s. A significant difference in marital satisfaction was found between first-married and remarried adults (Orathinkal & Vansteenwegen, 2006). It was remarried adults who indicated a higher level of marital satisfaction. Furthermore, day-to-day family life is likely to be seriously affected by the child's disorder and in many cases family relationships will be adversely affected. Raising a child with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (Johnston & Mash, 2001), autism (Hartley, Barker, Seltzer, Greenberg & Floyd, 2011), conduct disorder, or psychiatric disorder may have significant impact on the family interactions, including increased levels of marital discord (Sanders & Morgan, 1997). Moreover, research has found that the level of parental stress and marital dissatisfaction experienced appears to be directly associated with the reported

severity of the child's behavioural disturbance (Gowers & Bryan, 2005).

Recent reviews (Halford, Bouma, Kelly, & Young, 1999; Leonard & Eiden, 2007; Leonard & Rothbard, 1999; Marshal, 2003; Cranford, Floyd, Schulenberg & Zucher, 2011) have also documented the negative effects of alcohol involvement and alcohol use disorder (AUD) on marital quality. In an extensive review of the literature on alcohol involvement and marital functioning, Marshal (2003) reviewed 24 studies that focused on marital satisfaction, eight of which involved comparisons between alcoholic and nonalcoholic participants. Generally, these studies found lower levels of marital satisfaction among ALC compared to NALC couples (Jacob and Leonard, 1992).

In this context of varying conclusions, it is expected that this study would serve to further support some previous findings and expand the already existing literature in this field. It is also expected that our findings would enable marriage and family therapists and health workers to draw clinical and therapeutic inferences.

Primarily, we had two questions in mind for the present study. First we examined whether early father-daughter relationship factors can predict the wife's and husband's marital satisfaction. Second, we investigated whether the demographic variables: educational attainment, wife's employment status, absence of children, length of marriage, number of marriages, type of marriage, and presence of mental disorders or alcoholism in the family, had a significant effect on the marital satisfaction.

Importance of the study:

Although research concerning the mother - daughter relationships has been abundant, little has been written or researched concerning the relationship the woman has experienced with her father during childhood. This study highlights early father - daughter relationship and its impact on marital satisfaction. Furthermore, this study evaluates marital satisfaction in its relation to demographic variables and examines each relationship from a socio-cultural perspective. Such interactions may prove to be highly important and relevant for clinicians, counselors, educators, social workers and other members of mental health professions.

Definition of Terms:

● **Father - Daughter Relationship:** As measured by Father-Presence Questionnaire, refers to the affective, behavioral, and cognitive/perceptual

elements that operationalize daughter's feelings about the father, her physical relationship with the father, and the adult child's perception of the father's involvement with her.

● **Marital Satisfaction:** As measured by Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire, refers to the level of which respondents experience empathy, acceptance, understanding, intimacy, loyalty, and commitment

Research Problem and Questions:

Primarily, we had two questions in mind for the present study:

Q1: Are there any significant predictions for early father - daughter relationship factors to the wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction?

Q2: Are there any significant differences in the wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction due to the demographic variables such as: (educational attainment, wife's employment, absence of children, type of marriage, number of marriages, presence of mental disorders or alcoholism in the family)?

Limitations:

1. Difficulties in the separation between husbands and wives during the process of completing the study questionnaires for purposes of maintaining privacy of each and the prevention of biased responses.

2. Lack of accumulative literature concerning the early relationship between fathers and their daughters in the Arab world.

3. The obstacles in meeting criteria of having both husbands and wives as pairs in the sample have made it necessary to adopt the snow-ball technique.

Research Methodology and Procedure:

Participants:

Jordanian married couples within the age range of 18 and above constituted the target population for this study. The total sample consisted of 494 respondents from Greater Amman region. They were 247 men and 247 women. The mean age of women was 32.12 years ($SD=5$), while the mean age of men was 36.8 ($SD=5.98$). Respondent wives who had married once were 230 ($SD=26.52$) and those who married twice or more were 14 ($SD=32.44$), whereas, respondent husbands who had married once were 209 ($SD=26.68$) whereas, those who married twice or more were 14 ($SD=61.27$). With respect to educational level among the wives, 13.4% had secondary-level education, whereas 15.4%, 55.9%. and 15.4% had community college, higher education-BA, and higher education-MA levels, respectively. Among husbands, a similar

percentage as wives (13.4%) had a secondary level of education, only 8.5% had community college level of education, 57.9% had a BA level, and 20.2% had an MA level of educational attainment. As to employment, the majority of both husbands and wives are employed: 221(89.5%) for husbands and 170 (68.8%) for wives (see table 1).

Table 1
Participants according to age, educational level, and work:

Variables	Wives		Husbands	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
<i>Age</i>				
20- 25	34	13,8	9	3,6
26-30	64	25,9	41	16,6
31-35	53	21,5	50	20,2
36-40	34	13,8	46	18,6
41-45	34	13,8	37	15,0
46 or more	28	11,3	64	25,9
Total	247	100.0	247	100.0
<i>Education</i>				
Secondary	33	13.4	33	13.4
Community College	38	15.4	21	8.5
B.A	138	55.9	143	57.9
M.A	38	15.4	50	20.2
Total	247	100.0	247	100.0
<i>Work</i>				
Yes	170	68.8	221	89.5
No	77	31.2	26	10.5
Total	247	100.0	247	100.0

Study instruments:

1.Father-Presence Questionnaire:

Researchers employed Father-Presence Questionnaire, developed by Krampe & Newton (2006), which consists of 134 items distributed over (10) subscales constituting the original version. For purposes of the current study, (71) items were chosen to cover six subscales: Feelings about the Father, Mother's Support for Relationship with Father, Perception of Father's Involvement, Physical Relationship with Father, Father-Mother Relationship, and Conceptions of Father's Influence. Four point Likert-scale was used, with a total score range from 71 to 284, where the higher score indicate a more positive daughter-father relationship.

Father-Presence Questionnaire Validity:

In the original version, different validity indicators showed a construct validity by using conformity factor analysis (CFA) with a total Eigenvalue of (77.8%) and an Item-factor loading values of 0.3 or above. Convergent validity was also used. All coefficient values were ≥ 0.60 (Krampe & Newton, 2006).

For adaptation purposes, the present study relied on the findings by Al-sheikh Ali (2011) who conducted translation and back translation of the Father - Presence questionnaire among a Jordanian sample of university students. In addition, judges' evaluation was obtained in order to examine item appropriateness. Furthermore, internal validity was calculated among a pilot sample of 50 students. Results indicated that item-total correlation for all items were above 0.30, which reflect acceptable level of internal validity.

Father-Presence Questionnaire reliability:

In the original version (Krampe & Newton, 2006), a number of reliability indicators were shown. Among such indicators, Cronbach Alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients were found to be above (0.89) for all subscales, which indicate a high level of reliability.

Such reliability results were supported by Al-Sheikh Ali (2011) findings who used the same alpha equation among Jordanian university students. Results have indicated that computed reliability coefficients for subscales ranged between 0.81 and 0.92 with a total reliability coefficient of (0.97), which suggests that the instrument on subscale as well as on total level, reflects a high level of reliability.

Furthermore, the current study has conducted Cronbach Alpha internal consistency reliability coefficients method, with results ranging between (0.75) for Father-Mother Relationship subscale and (0.93) for Perception of Father's Involvement subscale. Overall Coefficient value for the total score was (0.95) (see table 2).

2. Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire:

Researchers have developed Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire based on items derived from a group of inventories and scales: Beier-Sternberg Discord Questionnaire (DQ) (Beier & Sternberg, 1977); Conflict Resolution Scale (Olson, Fournier & Druckman,, 1985); Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS)(Straus, 1979); Construction of Problems Scale (CPS) (Heatherington, 1998) ; and Sound Relationship House Questionnaire- Constructive versus Destructive Conflict Measures(Gottman, 1999). Four point Likert-scale was

used, with a total score range from 53 to 212, where the higher score indicates a more positive marital satisfaction.

Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire Validity:

Upon translation to Arabic and back translation to English, Item content appropriateness of Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire was verified by (5) experts in the field of counseling and clinical psychology from Amman Al-Ahliyya and Jordan Universities. Modifications of items content were based on 80% agreement among designated experts. Accordingly, Expert suggestions were incorporated into Questionnaire relative language and culture.

The above procedure was a preliminary step toward the application of the questionnaire on a voluntary pilot sample of (15) pairs of husbands and wives, in order to examine item clarity, appropriateness and, internal validity. Results have indicated that item - total correlation score was above 0.30.

Marital Satisfaction Questionnaire Reliability:

For wife marital satisfaction as well as husband marital satisfaction Questionnaire, Cronbach Alpha coefficient values were (0.93) respectively, which indicate appropriate levels of reliability (see table 2).

Table 2
Cronbach Alpha coefficient value for Father Presence and marital satisfaction Questionnaires

Scales	Number of Items	Alpha
<i>Father Presence Questionnaire</i>		
Feelings about the Father	13	0.87
Mother's Support for Relationship with Father	14	0.84
Perception of Father's Involvement	14	0.86
Perception of Father's Involvement	9	0.93
Father-Mother Relationship	13	0.75
Conceptions of Father's Influence	8	0.87
Overall Father Presence Questionnaire	71	0.95
<i>marital satisfaction Questionnaire</i>		
Wife marital satisfaction	53	0.93
Husband marital satisfaction	53	0.93

3. Demographic Variables

Researchers gathered information on demographic variables through a researcher-established demographic questionnaire. The variables studied were age, gender, educational attainment, employment, type of marriage (traditional vs. non-traditional), number of marriages, presence of children, presence of psychological disorders, and presence of alcoholism.

Procedure:

In addition to targeted respondents, other appropriate respondents identified and referred by involved participants were included. This snowball technique was employed in an efficient and successful manner. Study questionnaires were administered by trained college students. Student training included already familiar topics to undergraduate psychology students such as general orientation to research, characteristics of target population, basic interviewing skills, and data-collection procedures. They were asked to take one set of questionnaires each and have it completed by a married couple. The intention of this research was made clear by a brief description of the study, and confidentiality of the respondents was assured. Participation was completely voluntary and based on respondents' goodwill.

intention of this research was made clear by a brief description of the study, and confidentiality of the respondents was assured. Participation was completely voluntary and based on respondents' goodwill.

Married men and women were contacted in their different settings and wherever they could be found. This included homes, offices, schools, universities and other settings. After a brief unstructured interview to ascertain that participants are within the requirements for participation, and to solicit their full participation, the questionnaires were handed to them in an envelope. Although all necessary instructions were contained in the questionnaires, partners who agreed to participate were assured of anonymity and reminded to simply call on the research assistant to collect questionnaires after completion. The administration was to married couples, each in isolation from the other spouse, and linking codes were used for the set that went to a particular couple. For example, H7 and W7 (Husband 7 and Wife 7) were administered to a couple. This was to enable responses from couples to be matched for dyadic analytic purposes, and was explained to participant couples, to eliminate any doubts about the codes or and get erroneous impressions that the codes were any secret identifications that might link findings to them personally. Furthermore, in the administration of the questionnaires, adequate

information was given to participants and their consent sought on that basis. It was made clear to participants that they could withdraw from the study or skip any portions of the questionnaire that constituted discomfort to them in anyway. Also, the return of the questionnaires was in a sealed envelope so data would remain completely anonymous.

Statistical design:

1. Multiple regression analysis for the prediction of dependent variables (wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction) through examination of father-daughter presence factors.
2. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to examine differences in marital satisfaction due to certain independent variables.
3. T-test to compare mean differences between two groups (traditional vs. non-traditional marriages, employed vs. non-employed women, first-married vs. remarried, presence vs. absence of children, presence vs. absence of psychiatric disorders or alcoholism).

Study method:

The Descriptive Comparative approach was used in order to compare between different groups based on study variables to identify the contribution value for each variable.

Results:

Q1: Are there any significant prediction for early father - daughter relationship factors to the wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction?

Multiple regression was used to assess father presence variables as predictors of wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction. For wives, the multiple R coefficient for father-daughter presence factors was (0.349) with ($F = 5.352$, D.F. 6 232, $P \leq 0.01$), which indicate a significant effect of the predicting variables on the dependent variables (wife's marital satisfaction). The R^2 value of 0.122 means that part of the variance of the wife's marital satisfaction was explained by one or more of the father-daughter presence factors (see table 3).

However, for husbands, the multiple R coefficients for father-daughter presence factors was (0.358), with ($F = 5.132$, D.F. 6 232, $P \leq 0.01$), which indicate that there is a significant effect of the predicting variables on the dependent variables (husband's marital satisfaction). The R^2 value of 0.128 means that part of the variance of husband's marital satisfaction was explained by one or more of the father-daughter presence (see table 3).

Table (3)

Wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction as predicted by father presence variables

	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F	Sig.
Wife	0.349	0.122	0.099	23.55681	5.352	0.000
Husbands	0.358(a)	0.128	0.103	25.34705	5.132	0.000(a)

Furthermore, multi-co-linearity test was conducted for both wives and husbands variables. Results has shown for both that the VIF values for all predicting variables were less than (5) which means it is within an acceptable range (see table 4).

Moreover, as a measure of the contribution of each variable to the model, the Standardized Beta Coefficients was used for both wives and husbands. Results for wives indicate that only two predictors of father-daughter presence factors had significant impact on wives' marital satisfaction: physical relationship with the father ($B = 0.24$, $t = 2.43$, $P \leq 0.01$), and perceptions of father's influence ($B = 0.175$, $t = 2.55$, $P \leq 0.01$). Both predicting factors had a positive impact on wives' marital satisfaction. As to the husbands, results show that four predictors of father-daughter presence factors had significant impact on their marital satisfaction: Feelings about the Father ($B = -0.368$, $t = -3.331$, $P \leq 0.01$), Mother's Support for Relationship with Father ($B = 0.244$, $t = 2.24$, $P \leq 0.01$), Father's Support for Relationship with Daughter ($B = 0.244$, $t = 2.24$, $P \leq 0.01$), and Father's Support for Relationship with Son ($B = 0.244$, $t = 2.24$, $P \leq 0.01$).

0.01), Physical Relationship with Father ($B = -0.263$, $t = 2.55$, $P \leq 0.01$), and perceptions of Father's Influence ($B = 0.167$, $t = 2.332$, $P \leq 0.01$). Only Feelings about the Father factor had negative impact on husbands' marital satisfaction, while the other three predicting factors had a positive impact on husbands' marital satisfaction (see table 4).

Q2: Are there any significant differences in the wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction due to the demographic variables such as: (educational attainment, wife's employment, absence of children, type of marriage, number of marriages, presence of mental disorders or alcoholism in the family)?

Table (4)

Standardized Beta Coefficients of father presence predictors of wife and husband marital satisfaction

marital satisfaction predictors		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients Beta	T	Sig.	Co-linearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error				Tolerance	VIF
Constant	W*	158.55	12.10		13.11	0.00		
	H**	162.310	13.416		12.098	0.000		
Feelings about the Father	W	-5.37	4.52	-0.13	-1.19	0.24	0.34	2.91
	H	-17.153	5.149	-0.368	-3.331	0.001	0.340	2.945
Mother's Support for Relationship with Father	W	4.25	4.89	0.09	0.87	0.39	0.40	2.53
	H	13.197	5.867	0.244	2.249	0.026	0.353	2.832
Perception of Father's Involvement	W	3.05	3.66	0.09	0.83	0.41	0.33	3.05
	H	2.872	4.195	0.077	0.685	0.494	0.328	3.050
Physical Relationship with Father	W	6.59	2.72	0.24	2.43	0.02	0.38	2.61
	H	7.739	3.035	0.263	2.550	0.011	0.391	2.559
Father-Mother Relationship	W	-2.94	5.32	-0.06	-0.55	0.58	0.36	2.75
	H	-2.565	6.023	-0.047	-0.426	0.671	0.347	2.880
Conceptions of Father's Influence	W	7.680	3.002	0.175	2.558	0.011	0.807	1.239
	H	7.761	3.343	0.167	2.322	0.021	0.800	1.250

*Wife **Husband

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and independent sample T- test have been conducted on all demographic variables.

As to wife's employment and marital satisfaction for both wives and husbands, t value indicates significant differences due to wives' employment variable ($t = 2.13$, $P < 0.05$), which means that employed wives had a higher marital satisfaction than non-employed wives. Furthermore, husbands of employed wives had more marital satisfaction than husbands whose wives were non-employed (see table 5).

With regard to number of marriages and marital satisfaction, Table (5) shows the difference in the marital satisfaction between first married and remarried. The t test revealed that there is a significant difference for both wives and husbands. Results for wives ($t = 2.66$, $P \leq 0.05$) indicate that wives whose husbands married once had more marital satisfaction than wives whose husbands married twice. Results also reveal the same tendency for husbands ($t = 3.57$, $P \leq 0.05$) which means that husbands who had married once had more marital satisfaction than husbands who had married twice. First marriages seem to indicate higher level of marital satisfaction.

Regarding type of marriage, t value for wives indicates significant differences in marital satisfaction due to the way of marriage variables. Results ($t = -2.23$, $P \leq 0.05$) indicate that wives who had married in a non-traditional way had more marital satisfaction compared to wives who married in a traditional way. However, as to husbands, there was no significant difference ($t = -1.40$, $P \leq 0.05$) which means that there is no difference in husbands' marital satisfaction due to the way of marriage (see table 5).

As to the presence of mental illness, results as shown in table (5) indicate significant differences in marital satisfaction for both wives and husbands. Results for wives ($t = -2.32$, $P \leq 0.05$) as well as husbands ($t = -2.75$, $P \leq 0.05$) indicate that marital satisfaction for both is significantly reduced by the presence of a mentally ill in the family.

However, as to the presence of an alcoholic in the family, results have shown a significant difference between wives and husbands. Results in table (5) show significant differences in marital satisfaction for wives ($t = -2.18$, $P \leq 0.05$), whereas, for husbands ($t = -1.21$, $P \leq 0.05$), there was no significant difference.

Table (5) shows significant differences in wives' marital satisfaction due to presence of children ($t = -2.66$, $P \leq 0.05$). Wives with no children expressed more marital satisfaction than those with children. In contrast, there was no significant difference in husbands' marital satisfaction ($t = -0.82$, $P \leq 0.05$) due to the presence of children.

Table (5)

T test results of marital satisfaction due to type of marriage

Variable		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	T	Sig
<i>Wife's employment</i>							
Wife	Yes	170	203.41	26.74	2.05	2.13	0.03
	No	73	195.36	27.80	3.25	2.09	0.04
Husband	Yes	170	203.95	23.64	1.90	3.74	0.00
	No	73	187.40	41.33	5.13	3.03	0.00
<i>Number of marriages</i>							
Wife	One	230	202.10	26.52	1.75	2.66	0.01
	Two	14	182.43	32.44	8.67	2.22	0.04
Husband	One	209	200.98	26.68	1.85	3.57	0.00
	Two	14	171.57	61.27	16.37	1.78	0.10
<i>Traditional marriage</i>							
Wife	Yes	133	197.3383	29.34690	2.54470	-2.23	0.03
	No	111	205.0901	24.11848	2.28922	-2.26	0.02
Husband	Yes	133	197.0924	30.86932	2.82979	-1.40	0.16
	No	111	202.5385	26.74399	2.62246	-1.41	0.16
<i>Psychological Illness</i>							
Wife	Yes	10	181.4000	30.76145	9.72762	-2.32	0.02
	No	235	201.6170	26.88910	1.75405		
Husband	Yes	10	173.3000	61.83500	19.55394	-2.75	0.01
	No	214	200.1729	28.09663	1.92065		
<i>Alcoholism</i>							
Wife	Yes	10	182.5000	25.40013	8.03223	-2.18	0.03
	No	235	201.5702	27.13764	1.77026	-2.32	0.04
Husband	Yes	9	186.8889	26.67135	8.89045	-1.21	0.23
	No	215	199.4791	30.75359	2.09738	-1.38	0.20
<i>Presence of Children</i>							
Wife	Yes	194	198.1907	27.66322	1.98610	-2.66	0.01
	No	48	209.6458	22.48828	3.24590		
Husband	Yes	180	198.7444	27.31364	2.03584	-0.82	0.41
	No	41	202.8780	36.60478	5.71671		

With regard to education, there is no significant difference in the wives' marital satisfaction ($f = 2.102$, $P \leq 0.05$) due to education. However, results for husbands ($f = 2.66$, $P \leq 0.05$) indicate a significant difference in marital satisfaction due to education (see table 6).

Table (6)

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) test to marital satisfaction due to education

		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Wife	Between Groups	4591.215	3	1530.405	2.102	0.101
	Within Groups	175503.455	241	728.230		
	Total	180094.669	244			
Husband	Between Groups	7384.075	3	2461.358	2.664	0.049
	Within Groups	201396.124	218	923.835		
	Total	208780.198	221			

To ascertain if there are significant differences in relation to levels of educational attainment, Multiple Comparisons were conducted. Results indicate that husbands' marital satisfaction was higher among B.A and M.A degree holders compared to community college degree holders. In addition, the M.A degree holders had higher satisfaction compared to B.A holders, which means that gaining higher education will positively influence husbands' marital satisfaction as shown in table (7).

Table (7)

Multiple Comparisons to levels of educational attainment

		Secondary	college	B.A	M.A
Husband	Secondary		1.79	-10.91	-14.40
	College	-1.79		-12.69891(*)	-16.19097(*)
	B.A	10.91	12.69891(*)		-3.49
	M.A	14.40	16.19097(*)	3.49	

* The mean difference is significant at .05 level.

Discussion:

This study examined early father-daughter relationship variables and to what extent they can predict marital satisfaction among wives and husbands. In addition, this study investigated the influence of several demographic variables on marital satisfaction. Results have confirmed that 'physical relationship with the father' and 'perceptions of fathers' influence' have a significant positive effect on wives' marital satisfaction. In other words, such early father-daughter interaction characteristics predict certain dimensions of wives' marital satisfaction. These results support a great deal of research findings which point

To the importance of early father-daughter relationship in the development of marital satisfaction. Such findings are implicitly consistent with the assertion by Seconda (1992) that the kind of relation women may have with their father determine the type of men they choose as their husbands and the kind of interaction they will have with them. Based on this assumption, Seconda was able to differentiate types of fathers and daughters according to the nature of this relationship with the respective other. These findings also lend support to results arrived at by Bowling and Werner-Wilson (2000) which emphasize the influence of daughters' relation with the father on her relation with men and her mature sexual decisions later on. This may also contribute to the daughter's psychosocial adjustment (Biller & Kimpton, 1997; Amato, 1998; Lamb & Lewis, 2004), social acceptance (Snarey, 1993), sexual adjustment (Lamb, 1997; Lamb & Lewis, 2004), perceived warmth and closeness (Coiro & Emery, 1998; Floyed & Morman, 2005; Flouri & Buchanan, 2002), self-image (Perkins, 2001), and self-esteem (Mori, 1999; Pleck & Masciadrelli, 2004; Cooper, 2009)

As to husbands' marital satisfaction, results have indicated that there are four predictors of father-daughter presence factors which had a significant impact on husbands' marital satisfaction: Feelings about the father, mother's support of daughters' relation with the father, conceptions of fathers' influence, and physical relationship with the father. Only feelings about the father had a negative impact on husband's marital satisfaction, while the other three factors had a positive effect on husbands' marital satisfaction. Feelings about the father, as an exception, can be viewed from a psychodynamic point of view. The wife's expressed feelings toward the father may stir up feelings of jealousy and/or envy in the husband. This may explain the negative impact associated with the first predictor (feelings about the father). As to the other three predictors, results are consistent with the findings of Bowling & Werner-Wilson (2000) and the early assertions by Bowlby (1969) that secured attachment in early childhood predicts future success and happiness in adulthood. It seems that husbands' perceived marital satisfaction is affected, directly or indirectly, by the wife's personality characteristics (i.e., attachment pattern). Since marital relationship is an interactional one, one may assume that any dysfunction in one partner will eventually affect the other, including general satisfaction in marriage. From the wife's perspective, one may assert that her psychological characteristics which were partially formulated by her early relationship with the father play a major role in facilitating or complicating the interaction process with the husband. Again, this lends support to findings by Perkins (2001) which points to the important connection

between wives' style of life and self-appraisal, on one hand, and previous relationship with the father on the other. In light of the present findings, it seems that such characteristics may set a standard that enhances a positive and successful marital relationship.

In a cultural context, these results shed some light on the mother image in Arabic culture and the salient role she plays in the formation of the daughter's marital values. The mother who supports a close and intimate relationship between the daughter and her father may indirectly foster a positive and constructive relationship with the daughter's future marriage partner. Her positive conception of her father's influence also plays an important role in marital satisfaction and in projecting positive feelings on the marital relationship. The positive feelings she may experience with her father and the security and warmth embedded in it will most probably facilitate a more supportive and rewarding relationship with her husband.

According to the present investigation, several demographic variables were found statistically significant in predicting wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction. Results indicated that employed wives have more marital satisfaction than non-employed ones. The current study, therefore, confirms some of the early studies that marital quality was higher among wives who were employed than among housewives (Houseknecht & Macke, 1981; Simpson & England, 1982). In the context of Enhancement Hypothesis, Kessler and McRae (1982) assume that the self-esteem, self-efficacy, and social support which women acquire in relation to their role-diversity represent a positive force in their lives and leads to life-satisfaction. This is supported by the findings of Breik and Daoud (2009) who found significant differences between working and non-working women in psychosomatic symptoms and stress-related medical conditions. The percentages of non-working women who suffer from these conditions were significantly higher than their working women counterparts.

Contrary to the findings of Cherlin (1979), Janssen et al. (1998), and Kalmijn (1999) who had shown that highly educated women had a higher rate of unstable marriages, the current study has indicated that as educational level increased there were increased levels of marital satisfaction. Education seems to be highly esteemed in contemporary Arab society and viewed by both genders as an essential condition for social and economical advancement. In general, women education and employment had acquired in recent years a great deal of importance and value both social and economical. Also, number of marriages significantly influenced marital satisfaction with one-time marriages reporting greater marital satisfaction. Contrary to previous findings

in other cultures (Orathinkal & Vansteenwegen, 2006, 2007; Rogers & Amato, 1997), the present study findings indicate that first-married had more marital satisfaction than remarried ones. Cultural factors such as divorce burdens, stresses, extended family pressures and interferences may explain such finding. Furthermore, it could also be argued that couples who stay together for longer periods of time are not necessarily free from adjustment issues or difficulties, instead for some reasons or other (or even social values) they are able to overlook those issues and difficulties. Cultural expectations of women role emphasize coping with marriage problems and internalization of those expectations.

Compared to White and Edwards early study (1990) in which overall absence of children had a significant positive effect on marital happiness, the current study, however, showed significant gender differences between husbands and wives. Only wives showed increased marital satisfaction with absence of children. A long list of research studies support the notion of a general decline in marital satisfaction following the birth of the first child (i.e., Belsky & Kelly, 1994; Cox, Paley, Burchinal, & Payne 1999; Shapiro, Gottman, & Carrere, 2000). This decline, as explained by some authors, is mostly attributable to the fact that the newly arrived baby disrupts many of the old personal and dyadic patterns of behavior, habits, and problem-solving strategies and make them obsolete, thus new ones need to be quickly learned and adopted. These changes are assumed to affect parents' interaction, functioning, roles, and level of conflict; hence their satisfaction with the marriage. These changes seem to impact wives more than their husbands. Furthermore, in a more cultural context, it seems that along with their full-time or part-time work, the majority of women in today's Arab society are still required to hold the ultimate responsibility for the day-to-day running of the family. This lack of equity in job-division constitute a huge burden on wives while husbands involvement in child-care remains at best secondary or minimal. Moreover, for men in an Arab culture, having offspring means continuity of family heritage and a symbol of fertility and el-izwah.

Another factor relevant to Arab culture is the assessment of traditional (arranged) marriages compared to non-traditional (non-arranged) marriages as a determinant factor of marital satisfaction in both husbands and wives. Again, results have reflected gender differences. Only wives who were married in a non-traditional way showed significant increase in marital satisfaction compared to those married in a traditional way. However, as to husbands, there was no significant difference between the two groups. Such variance can be predicted in light of the prominent gender-related values and gender-role

distinctions. In addition, this may reflect the relative freedom of choice that women may enjoy in contemporary Arab society compared to traditional women who conform to typical female role-expectations. Compared to women in Eastern culture, men encounter much less social restrictions on choice of partners. Also, in such traditional societies forming emotional bonds before marriage is quite rare. Culturally and religiously, it is almost a taboo to form an emotional bond before marriage.

A decreased level of marital satisfaction was found to be associated with the presence of psychological disorders or alcoholism in the family. Having a member of the family with a mental or alcohol use disorder is a predictive factor of marital satisfaction. Such findings support a great deal of research conducted on families inflicted with alcohol use disorder (AUD) (Jacob and Leonard, 1992; Halford et al., 1999; Marshal, 2003; Leonard & Eiden, 2007; Cranford et al., 2011) or children disorders such as attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (Johnston & Mash, 2001), autism (Hartley et al., 2011), conduct disorders or psychiatric disorders (Sanders & Morgan, 1997) which all point to increased levels of marital discord, parental stress, and marital dissatisfaction (Gowers & Bryan, 2005; Kelly & Halford, 2006). Nevertheless, it was found that alcohol use disorder has far more negative effect on the wife's marital satisfaction compared to the husband. Such gender differences may also be explained when viewed in a socio-cultural context where social sanctions and social stigma are especially associated with women alcohol use. Alcohol use among men is more tolerated and, thus, have less negative consequences on husbands' marital satisfaction.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the present study has advanced our understanding of marital satisfaction in relation to the quality of early father-daughter interaction as well as in relation to a number of demographic variables. The primary relationship between a daughter and her father plays a significant role in her marital satisfaction as well as her husband's marital satisfaction. This is consistent with the contributions of great many theorists and researchers. If the daughter had experienced a safe and secure relationship with her father, she most probably will carry those feelings to her relation with the husband. Most demographic variables in the current study have a significant effect on marital satisfaction. For instance, contrary to previous research, this study has suggested that first-married adults have higher levels of marital satisfaction than remarried ones. In addition, it was found that wives' employment, education, and non-traditional

method of marriage were associated with higher marital satisfaction. Furthermore, presence of children, psychiatric disorders, and alcohol use disorders were found to be associated with decreased levels of marital satisfaction, especially in wives. Despite modernization and gender-role changes, the broad cultural heritage of the Arab society still leaves an imprint on values and forces which foster gender-role distinctions and expectations, and non-egalitarian marriages.

Our study may have important implications for therapists and health professionals. The findings may assist them in understanding and assessing their clients. They could use such information in counseling those marriage partners who seek stability in marital relationship as well as those who are threatened by separation or divorce.

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